

# NEWS RELEASE



11767 Owings Mills Blvd. | Owings Mills, MD 21117-1499 | [mpt.org](http://mpt.org)



**mpt**

MARYLAND  
PUBLIC  
TELEVISION

ANNAPOLIS  
HAGERSTOWN  
SALISBURY

FREDERICK  
OAKLAND  
OWINGS MILLS

December 23, 2022

**For immediate release**

**Contacts:**

Michael MacFee | [mmacfee@mpt.org](mailto:mmacfee@mpt.org) | 410-581-4262

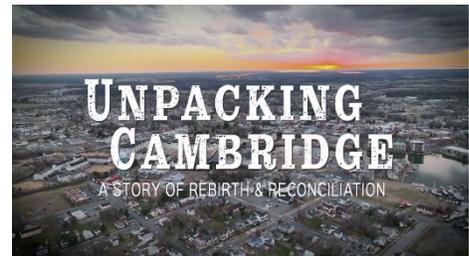
Emily Greco | [egreco@nevinspr.com](mailto:egreco@nevinspr.com) | 443-686-1331

## **MPT documentary *Unpacking Cambridge: A Story of Rebirth & Reconciliation* premieres January 2 at 9 p.m.**

***One-hour documentary explores the Dorchester County community's story of rebirth and reconciliation***

**OWINGS MILLS, MD** – [Maryland Public Television](http://MarylandPublicTelevision.org) (MPT) will premiere the original documentary *Unpacking Cambridge: A Story of Rebirth & Reconciliation* on Monday, January 2 at 9 p.m. on MPT-HD and online at [mpt.org/livestream](http://mpt.org/livestream). The one-hour documentary will also be available to stream on demand using MPT's [online video player](#) and the [PBS Video App](#).

*Unpacking Cambridge* tells the story of the Dorchester County city's rebirth and reconciliation from a boomtown that went bust. A preview of the program along with several digital extras and photographs from the making of the film can be found on MPT's website at [mpt.org/unpackingcambridge/](http://mpt.org/unpackingcambridge/).



During its heyday, Cambridge's Phillips Packing House served as the engine that drove the economic and social fabric of life on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Packing House was the largest cannery in the world, and when the factory was buzzing it was an economic powerhouse that elevated the former slave port into a prosperous community for both Black and white residents.

When the Packing House abruptly shuttered in the early 1960s, the building and the community around it deteriorated. As the building lay dormant, the surrounding community struggled, and the crumbling bricks of the behemoth factory provided a constant reminder of better days. Dire economic and social unrest surfaced, sending riots and fires racing through the once-booming town.

Today, its formerly broken windows and neglected interior have been revitalized and brought back to life as a bold experiment. Circling back to its roots, the Packing House is being re-envisioned as a hub for food and innovation that is poised to once again act as the region's economic engine. The Packing House now serves as a beacon of revitalization, offering opportunities the community hasn't seen in more than a half-century. *Unpacking Cambridge* pulls back the layers of history to reveal the new opportunities and hope that are rising from the ashes of the once-shuttered Packing House.

Encore broadcasts of *Unpacking Cambridge: A Story of Rebirth & Reconciliation* will be offered on Thursday, January 5 at 9 p.m. on MPT2 and on Saturday, January 14 at 7 p.m.

*Unpacking Cambridge: A Story of Rebirth & Reconciliation* is a co-production of MPT and the [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development](#) in association with [Warner Hanson Television](#).

###

### **About Maryland Public Television**

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates and distributes local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and [Thinkport.org](#). MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit [mpt.org](#).